

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS IN THE CASE

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions:

1. (Currently Amended) In a digital television receiving system, a method of sharing information comprising the steps of:
 - a) a first device receiving a digital television bit-stream;
 - b) a second device setting a value in an attribute field of a command, said command for requesting a table of a plurality of tables information regarding said bit-stream and wherein said value in the attribute field refines identification of said table information being requested;
 - c) said second device setting at least one flag of a plurality of flags in said command, said step of setting defining the type of table information said attribute field describes, wherein the type of table information said attribute field describes is selectable between multiple types of tables information;
 - d) said second device issuing said command to said first device; and
 - e) said first device responsive to said value of said flag of said command and said value in said attribute field, returning one table of [[a]] said plurality of tables to said second device.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of tables comprise a master guide table, a terrestrial virtual channel table, a cable

virtual channel table, a system time table, a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said command is a direct select data command.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first device is a tuner device.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said second device is a controller device.

8. (Original) The method in Claim 1 wherein said digital television bit-stream comprises multiplexed digitized video, digitized audio, data, and said plurality of tables.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said digitized video is in MPEG format.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said devices are coupled together via an IEEE 1394 serial bus architecture.

11. (Currently Amended) A digital television receiving system comprising:

a first device having a memory unit for storing a command, wherein said command has a plurality of flags and a plurality of attribute fields comprising:

a table field for specifying a table identifier, and

a multi-purpose field for specifying one of a plurality a attributes related to said table field;

~~wherein at least one of said attribute fields is operable to store information of different types, and wherein said plurality of flags are configurable to identify the type of information~~ attribute held in said multi-purpose field plurality of attribute fields;

a second device connected to a digital television bit-stream;

a communication link connecting said first device and said second device;

said first device operable to issue said command to said second device; and

said second device operable to return one table of a plurality of tables from said digital video bit-stream to said first device responsive to a value of said plurality of flags and said value in said multi-purpose field ~~at least one of said attribute fields.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The digital television receiving system of Claim 11 wherein the value in said multi-purpose field ~~a first of said plurality of attribute fields~~ is selectable between information related to an event information table, a rating region table, and an extended text table, according to settings of said plurality of flags.

13. (Original) The digital television receiving system of Claim 11 wherein said first device is a controller device.

14. (Original) The digital television receiving system of Claim 11 wherein said second device is a tuner device.

15. (Original) The method in Claim 11 wherein said digital television bit-stream comprises multiplexed digitized video, digitized audio, data, and said plurality of tables.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said digitized video is in MPEG format.

17-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) In a digital television receiving system, a method of providing bitstream information, said method comprising:

accessing a digital television bit-stream;

accessing a command requesting a table describing information in said digital television bit-stream, said command comprising:

a plurality of attribute fields comprising:

a table field for specifying a table identifier; and

a multi-purpose field for specifying one of a plurality of attributes related to a requested table; and
a flag field for specifying which one of the plurality of

attributes said multi-purpose field holds;

determining if said flag field indicates a rating region table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said rating region table;

determining if said flag field indicates an event table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said event table; and

determining if said flag field indicates an extended text table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said extended text table.

24. (New) A method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising setting a flag indicating said table field is valid.

25. (New) A method as recited in Claim 24, further comprising setting a value in said table field.

26. (New) A method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising setting said flag field to specify which one of the plurality of attributes said multi-purpose field holds.

27. (New) A method as recited in Claim 23, wherein said command is a direct select data command.

28. (New) A method as recited in Claim 23, wherein said multi-purpose field is for specifying an attribute for one of a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

29. (New) A method as recited in Claim 23, wherein said table identifier is able to specify one of a master guide table, a terrestrial virtual channel table, a cable virtual channel table, a system time table, a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

30. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said attribute field relates to one of a source identification, a rating region, and an extended text message.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 23-30 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claim 23 recites, in part:

determining if said flag field indicates a rating region table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said rating region table;

determining if said flag field indicates an event table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said event table; and

determining if said flag field indicates an extended text table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said extended text table.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest these limitations. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 23 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 24-29 depend from Claim 23, and are respectfully believe to derive patentability at least therefrom.

Claim 30 depends from Claim 1, and is respectfully believe to derive patentability at least therefrom.